

- (b) a user station at the plurality of customer households, enabling the customer household to preview the plurality of music selections a predetermined number of times before billing the customer household for the plurality of music selections, the user station including:
- i. a user interface for permitting the customer household to preselect a transmitted music selection for recording;
 - ii. a receiver;
 - iii. a high capacity storage medium, in communication with the receiver for recording the preselected music selection in digital form; and
 - iv. an audio output for outputting audio signals from the high capacity storage medium to a playback device for enabling the customer household to playback the recorded music selection;
 - v. a circuit for degrading a quality of the previewed preselected music selections by compressing the preselected music selections;
- (c) a central controller system having a database for storing therein information corresponding to the customer household;
- (d) a communications link between the customer household and the central controller system for verifying to the controller system when a preselected music selection has been made available for playback; and
- (e) a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the customer household for a music selection that has been made available for playback.
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98. (New) A system for distributing music to a plurality of customer households, the system comprising:

- (a) a data transmission system for blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to the plurality of customer households in digital format;
- (b) a user station at the plurality of customer households, enabling the customer household to preview the plurality of music selections a predetermined number of times before billing the customer household for the plurality of music selections, the user station including:
- i. a user interface for permitting the customer household to preselect a transmitted music selection for recording;
 - ii. a receiver;
 - iii. a high capacity storage medium, in communication with the receiver for recording the preselected music selection in digital form; and
 - iv. an audio output for outputting audio signals from the high capacity storage medium to a playback device for enabling the customer household to playback the recorded music selection;
 - v. a circuit for degrading a quality of the previewed preselected music selections by adding distortion to the preselected music selections;
- (c) a central controller system having a database for storing therein information corresponding to the customer household;
- (d) a communications link between the customer household and the central controller system for verifying to the controller system when a preselected music selection has been made available for playback; and
- (e) a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the customer household for a music selection that has been made available for playback.
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FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

99. (New) A system for distributing music to a plurality of customer households, the system comprising:

(a) a data transmission system for blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to the plurality of customer households in digital format;

(b) a user station at the plurality of customer households, enabling the customer household to preview the plurality of music selections a predetermined number of times before billing the customer household for the plurality of music selections, the user station including:

i. a user interface for permitting the customer household to preselect a transmitted music selection for recording;

ii. a receiver;

iii. a high capacity storage medium, in communication with the receiver for recording the preselected music selection in digital form; and

iv. an audio output for outputting audio signals from the high capacity storage medium to a playback device for enabling the customer household to playback the recorded music selection;

v. a circuit for degrading a quality of the previewed preselected music selections by overlaying voice over the preselected music selections;

(c) a central controller system having a database for storing therein information corresponding to the customer household;

(d) a communications link between the customer household and the central controller system for verifying to the controller system when a preselected music selection has been made available for playback; and

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
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(e) a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the customer household for a music selection that has been made available for playback.

100. (New) A system for distributing music to a plurality of customer households, the system comprising:

(a) a data transmission system for blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to the plurality of customer households in digital format;

(b) a user station at the plurality of customer households, enabling the customer household to preview the plurality of music selections a predetermined number of times before billing the customer household for the plurality of music selections, the user station including:

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- i. a user interface for permitting the customer household to preselect a transmitted music selection for recording;
 - ii. a receiver;
 - iii. a high capacity storage medium, in communication with the receiver for recording the preselected music selection in digital form; and
 - iv. an audio output for outputting audio signals from the high capacity storage medium to a playback device for enabling the customer household to playback the recorded music selection;
 - v. a circuit for degrading a quality of the previewed preselected music selections by deleting sections from the preselected music selections.

(c) a central controller system having a database for storing therein information corresponding to the customer household;

- (d) a communications link between the customer household and the central controller system for verifying to the controller system when a preselected music selection has been made available for playback; and
- (e) a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill customer household for a music selection that has been made available for playback.

101. (New) A method for distributing music to a plurality of customer households, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to the plurality of customer households in digital format;
- (b) providing a customer household with information identifying the music selections that will be transmitted;
- (c) preselecting and recording the transmitted music selection at the customer household on a high capacity storage medium;
- (d) enabling the customer household to preview the preselected music selection a predetermined number of times, utilizing a user station comprising a circuit for degrading quality of the previewed preselected music selections previewed by compressing the preselected music selections.
- (e) enabling the customer household to playback the recorded music selection;
- (f) communicating music playback information from the customer household to a central controller system; and
- (g) billing the customer household for the recorded music selection that has been played back, based on the communicated music playback information.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

102. (New) A method for distributing music to a plurality of customer households, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to the plurality of customer households in digital format;
- (b) providing a customer household with information identifying the music selections that will be transmitted;
- (c) preselecting and recording the transmitted music selection at the customer household on a high capacity storage medium;
- (d) enabling the customer household to preview the preselected music selection a predetermined number of times, utilizing a user station comprising a circuit for degrading quality of the previewed preselected music selections previewed by adding distortion to the preselected music selections;
- (e) enabling the customer household to playback the recorded music selection;
- (f) communicating music playback information from the customer household to a central controller system; and
- (g) billing the customer household for the recorded music selection that has been played back, based on the communicated music playback information.

103. (New) A method for distributing music to a plurality of customer households, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to the plurality of customer households in digital format;

- (b) providing a customer household with information identifying the music selections that will be transmitted;
- (c) preselecting and recording the transmitted music selection at the customer household on a high capacity storage medium;
- (d) enabling the customer household to preview the preselected music selection a predetermined number of times, utilizing a user station comprising a circuit for degrading quality of the previewed preselected music selections previewed by overlaying voice over the preselected music selections.
- (e) enabling the customer household to playback the recorded music selection;
- (f) communicating music playback information from the customer household to a central controller system; and
- (g) billing the customer household for the recorded music selection that has been played back, based on the communicated music playback information.
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104. (New) A method for distributing music to a plurality of customer households, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) blanket transmitting a plurality of music selections to the plurality of customer households in digital format;
- (b) providing a customer household with information identifying the music selections that will be transmitted;
- (c) preselecting and recording the transmitted music selection at the customer household on a high capacity storage medium;